



## **Sidney Job Service Employers' Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

February 19, 2009

#### **Employers Attending**

Sharon Nelson – Sidney Sugars

Lisa Brittingham - OPA

Leslie Messer – RED

#### **Job Service Staff Attending**

Jacklyn Damm

Vernette Torgerson

Steve Olson

#### **Round Table Update of Organizations:**

**Sharon:** Three positions at Sidney Sugar have been eliminated. They are consolidating job duties.

**Lisa:** OPA continues to be busy. They have seen a 10-20% increase per month. There have been large increases state wide in case loads. Healthy MT Kids – CHIP expansion funding is stalled at this time. Legislature will need to vote the funding in. This would be a \$20 million increase in CHIP/Medicaid. It would raise the poverty level on CHIP to make more available slots.

**Vernette:** Explained the apprenticeship program available at job service. Things are really busy. She has referred business to RED. Excel classes are going to be available from DCC and held at the Sidney Public Library on Thursday evenings. No exact date yet. We have been keeping track of computer training needed. Possibly do a survey through the Life Long Learning program. There are 108 job orders open at Sidney Job Service at this time.

**Steve:** The state is working to modify the MTWorks program. There have been approximately 120,000 hits per hour. This shows how many people need to relocate for work with in the state and nationally.

**Leslie:** Has been very busy with new companies wanting to come to Sidney. She is very excited about the BEAR program. She reports Centre Theatre has some good prospects for new ownership. Our lobbyist supported the WIRED bill. MonDak Heritage Center was recently awarded a grant of \$10,000. Leslie feels this was mainly because our lobbyist was informed and happened to be in place at the time the bill came up. She had 6 small business people come in this past month looking for assistance in starting a

new business. She feels there has been good collaboration between RED and Sidney Job Service. She also feels the economy is good in the Sidney area compared to the rest of the nation.

### **Minutes from last meeting:**

tabled

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sharon reported: Had not changed from last month.

Savings as of 01/15/09 \$4209.95

Checking as of 01/15/09 \$1089.24

### **Old Business**

**Update on 501 (c) 3** Members had reviewed and did not find any changes or errors.

**New Business** : Quickbooks Training: Vernetta gave an update on trainings she has found. Anderson/Zurmuehlen is out of Helena and would teach beginning, advanced and non-profit trainings. During our discussion it was agreed many people in our area need intermediate to advanced and non-profit trainings. Leslie explained the need for the non-profit trainings and how keeping books for a non-profit has many challenges the regular program does not address.

**Next Meeting: March 19, 2009 – Noon- Sidney Country Club**